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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: 11 November 1988
REPLY TO: Office of the Chief Scientist
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: Research and Technology Subcommittee Progress Report

TO: Chairman, FLC

1. In response to FLC-025-88 of 16 September 88, I have called for the formation of a Natural Language Processing Working Group (NLPWG). The working group will support the community in the common goal of strengthening the language workforce with appropriate technology.

STAT 2. The community institutions have submitted names of candidate representatives for the NLPWG via the ES/FLC. I have received advanced phone calls from five potential representatives. [redacted] said he is compiling responses and will forward a formal list when it is completed. I will take that list as a group of candidates for the NLPWG. I am planning to negotiate with parent organizations over candidates whom I know to be well qualified and interested in membership in the group. When all members are clearly identified, a charter meeting will be held and a subsequent formal schedule of regular meetings will be released.

3. My first priority is that members form internal working groups within their organizations to support them with lines of communication. This will give the member access to a global view of institutions with several internal elements working in contiguous areas. No single representative typically has a view of everything going on in a large agency or department, nor can one person do the type of investigation that community queries will require.

4. In addition to investigating the ALPS machine assisted translation system being researched at CIA and NSA, another initial project for the working group is emerging with potential benefit to the community at large. One of the community organizations has informally requested support in preparing a detailed Request For Proposals to initiate the procurement of a large system for multilingual text processing. The benefit of supporting the effort is that community members could ride on the resulting contract, saving inestimable manhours needed to produce another RFP in places where similar systems might be desirable.

STAT 5. I have been following and will continue to follow as appropriate the enclosed "blueprint" which I drafted in May 1988.

[redacted]
Chairman
Research and Technology
Subcommittee

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